Child Labour in Hazardous Industries

33. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have so far taken to control child labour in the carpet industry in the country;

(b) the present number of child labour engaged in carpet and other hazardous industries (State-wise);

(c) the number of registered looms which are engaging child labour despite Government's instructions;

(d) the number of looms which have so far been blacklisted and deregistered for violating the law against child labour; and

(e) what are the details of instructions/ guidelines issued by Government against the employment of child labour in carpet and other hazardous industries and handlooms and how far these have been implemented and violated by these organisations (State-wise)?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) To control child labour especially in the carpet industry Government has stepped up enforcement of the relevant Child Labour Laws in the carpet-belt in eastern Uttar Pradesh. State Government has informed that 9940 inspections have been made and 122 prosecutions have been filed in carpet belt during 1995. The Carpet Export Promotion Council has introduced a system of compulsory registration-cum-membership for export of handmade carpets. Besides this, there are two National Child Labour Projects under implementation-one each in UP (Mirzapur-Bhadohi) and Bihar (Garwah) covering 1850 children.

More children working in this industry are expected to be withdrawn and diverted to schooling in the years to come through a new scheme launched in 1995-96.

(b) The number of child labour industry-wise is not maintained. However, it is estimated that about 20 lakh children are working in hazardous occupations and State-wise figures in this regard are not maintained.

(c) and (d) According to information furnished by the Ministry of Textile, Office of the Development Commissioner for Handicrafts, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has set up a State level committee and district level task forces under the Chairmanship of Collectors in the concerned districts of Uttar Pradesh for enforcement of the child labour laws. The State Government till May in 1995 has inspected 9940 establishments and filed 122 cases against loom-owners violating child labour laws. During these inspections the presence of 371 children was found.

It has further been reported by the Office of the Development Commissioner, Handicrafts that Carpet Export Promotion Council has so far de-registered 28 looms and initiated action against 40 loom-owners. 1042 loom owners have been blacklisted as child labour was found to be employed on their looms and de-registration proceedings are under progress against 40 exporter-manufacturers.

(e) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 has been enacted to prohibit employment of child labour in 7 occupations and 18 processes including carpet weaving.

The State-wise enforcement figures for the year 1992-93 and 1993-94 are Annexed. [*See* Appendix 174 Annexure No. 1]

Cases Registered under Consumer Protection Act

34. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered under Consumer Protection Act during